

NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Seventh Page.

with our most nature, which cannot be taken to all persons and in all ages and countries for the uneducated, and in the East while nations cannot understand the nature of historical evidence, when we have a truer and deeper witness, and one nearer home in our own reason and conscience."

Jewett then proceeds to consider the subject anew, in reference, first, to the nature of God; second, to ourselves, and, third, to our fellow men. He argues that our belief in another life is chiefly founded on our belief in the existence of God, and that our conception of the nature of the future state is derived from our conception of the divine nature. "If we cannot believe that all human beings live into Him in this world, we shall have a doubtful and precarious hope of an existence beyond the grave." Again, there may be a reason for our belief in regard to immortality when a man is led by a careless, sensual, self-delusive life, then the higher sort of things become obliterated in his mind, and he is willing to take his chance. "But when a man is day by day and year by year trying to do his duty better, to know more of the truth, to carry on the work of God in the world more perfectly in the conquest of evil in the aspiration after good, then, just in proportion as he is free from every human and earthly influence, he will feel more assured that he is not deceiving himself, and that God is not deceiving him, and that his opinion, there is yet a third kind of witness to immortality which is borne by the actions and words of good and great men who have devoted their whole lives to the welfare of their fellow creatures. When they have died for them, when they have renounced all that men use, for the interests of knowledge, for the improvement of mankind, for the love of Christ, has all that been a mistake? Have the best of men, after all, the most mistaken? The author of these sermons answers in the negative. There have been some great times who have labored at the stake, there have been those in our own day who have gone down in a ship to save the lives of others. Did the waves close over them forever? If so it hardly like to ask the question, is not the life of Christ, instead of being the hope and support of the world, the source of its life, and these words which He spoke. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do, a deception? And were not the saints who followed Him, and have partaken of His sufferings, only grasping at a shadow?"

M. W. H.

The Queens of England.

There is no reason why, among all the women that fortunately and agreeably there are, the Queens of England should not be noticeably included. We are reminded, in looking over the book, of the famous story entitled "The Queen of England," by S. W. Benson & Co., Chicago, that the Queens of England, either by their own unaided good taste or by reason of the skill and politeness of the artists whom they employed to make pictures of their wives, were highly discriminating monarchs.

There is a large part of a book which the reader has a right to be familiar. It is Mary Howitt's account of the English Queens, to which there has been added a chapter of an especial interest from the pen of Geneva Armstrong, and we believe, indeed, that the whole account is so good, so interesting, so think it permissible to say again that these are pretty good Queens, we will venture to say even that there is no Queen in the book whom anybody with a heart in his bosom would cast out, or whom it is possible to dismiss on the score that she is not good looking.

We hardly need wait to say of the considerable procession of Queens whom the last eight Henry saw fit to marry, and to dispose of. As far as we can discover, he had a good deal better taste than they had, still, he was the King and could command their taste, whereas, there were obliged to be reasonable. Then, a picture here of Anne Poleyn gazing at a portrait of the eighth Henry, and we must say that we think she was able to see it. Poor thing! She called her husband's history, but it is big enough here to satisfy the most exacting.

It is a pleasure to say that the truth to heart of said Henry that he was a gross sensualist. He sent his Queens to heaven, indeed, but he was none the less worthy to be flayed and peppered for that reason. Jane Seymour undoubtedly is also here looking at her amiable husband's picture. She seemed to look at it bravely, and we do not know but that, so far as all the world is concerned, it would have been well, aesthetically as well as morally, if the stupendous presentment had never been revealed.

We remember that we have seen it said of Queen Elizabeth that she was obliged to wear a crown of diamonds, and we do not remember whether the industrious gentleman in Detroit, whose business it was to make out of the plays which Shakespeare wrote were written by Francis Bacon, is still at work with his effective crack machine upon the further business of showing Queen Elizabeth's diamonds, but he may be, and this picture of Queen Elizabeth, good as it is, could hardly contradict him more than does all history.

Strange enough to some of us that the name of Elizabeth should be accounted the greatest merit of her time. It is hard to say where the greatness is best to be fitted, and where the importance is most accurately to be applied, certainly she "bossed the job," and it may be that it is the greatest thing in all the world to do.

Shakespeare wrote something about the story of a little, pomegranate bush, and less perhaps was an interpolation by Colley Cibber. Sir Walter Raleigh flattered himself that he did an incomparable thing when he laid down his cloak in the mud for Queen Elizabeth to walk upon. He had come over from America, big with riches, and because he had discovered that potatoes were good to eat, and that tobacco was worth making. We do not know that Shakespeare was greater than Queen Elizabeth; the definition of greatness is a matter for discussion.

The chapter on Queen Victoria which Miss Armstrong has written is excellent. This book is significant and its interest at this time. There can be no doubt, either of the good looks of Queen Victoria when she was young, or of the importance of the marriage of Prince Albert, which, as Mr. Barham very well knows, occurred in his reign. The Queen is handsome here at least three times over, and it may be that the climax is reached in the picture called "The Bridal Morn" when she was married to the handsome Prince Albert in the year 1840. The Prince here appears as undoubtedly he had a right to do, in all the glory which it was possible for a young man to afford. If ever it were possible for a woman to be cemented faithfully to the man of her choice, certainly here was the opportunity.

Miss Armstrong has written her chapter in a compact and forceful way, and her book is well appreciated. We may quote from her account. She says in relation to the Crimean War: "At this time Aberdeen was Premier and Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer, and with the Queen they were opposed to the war policy of Palmerston, who sided with the Turks. Since that time the world has more than once seen the hypocrisy of Russia's pretended protection of Christian subjects in Turkey. When the mask was lifted, and the real policy of Russia revealed, war was inevitable, and with a prayer for the success of battles on land and sea, the Queen and her women of Britain sped her armies to the East. Doubtless the Queen looked for the noble Duke of Wellington, who had been the staunch friend of the sovereign and the nation, but he had laid down earthly arms in 1832. The Queen's heart was with the cause of right and her armies. The story

is cited of one of the little princesses, who, as Lord Raglan was leaving to take up his command in the Crimea, said to him: "You must hurry away to Sebastopol, please, Lord Raglan, and take it, or mother will die of her anxiety."

Tammany Hall.

Tammany Hall should consider it a tribute to its power and means of making that power felt, that no publishing house was willing to publish the book, "The History of Tammany Hall," even though the expense of publication was guaranteed, and that the author had finally to publish it himself. (Gustavus Myers, 52 William street), for the book cannot be believed to be a mere pamphlet, or a mere statement, supported by references to "Minutes of the Common Council, Legislative documents, police and criminal court records, Grand Jury presentments, and newspapers," that might well offend many earnest members of the Hall. But they are not the only ones whose volume is likely to grieve and even anger. Mr. Myers says: "It would be dishonest to pretend for the moment that Tammany has been alone in its evil-doing. It has been simply the most ingenious and the most pretentious, and its practices have a historical continuity, not shared by its rivals. While, for instance, sought in every possible way to outdo Tammany, they stuffed ballot boxes, colonized voters, employed rowdies and thugs at the polls and distributed thousands of deceptive ballots for the use of their opponents. In fiscal frauds, likewise, they left a record well-nigh equalling that of Tammany. The Native Americans imitated both Whigs and Tammany men. . . . Among the few exceptions, during the earlier half of the century, to the general prostitution of civic ideals, was the career of the Workingmen's Party, 1839-51, and of its successor, the Equal Rights party, 1854-58." On this latter point, Mr. Myers says: "Those who may be tempted to consider my work partial and partisan, on account of the showing that it makes of Tammany corruption and ineffectuality, will do well to read carefully the pages relating to the Whigs and to some other opponents of Tammany Hall."

Commenting on the well-established belief that "no special discredit attached to Tammany Hall until Tweed's time," Mr. Myers says: "The records show that nearly every prominent Tammany leader has been involved in some charge of swindling, public or private. These accusations or frauds range, in point of time, from 1789 and 1805-60 to the present day, in the matter of persons, from the founder of the Tammany Society to some of the most recent 'bosses,' and in gradation of amount, from the petty thousands taken by Moses Stagg and Page in the first decade of the century, to the \$1,200,000 taken by Swartwout in 1850-55, and the undetermined millions taken by Wood and Tweed in the 50s, 60s and first two years of the 70s. From nearly the beginning of its active political career, Tammany, with or without general interruption, has continued to abstract money from the city, the State and the nation, the interruptions to the practice generally coinciding with the periods when Tammany has been deprived of political power. Mr. Myers says further that there is no real difference between the Tammany Society and Tammany Hall, though Tammany men industrially propagate this pretense. "From 1868, the date of the apparent separation of the organization from the society, the Schemas of the latter have ruled the policies of the former."

Mr. Myers's history is extremely interesting, and is really a history of one hundred years of local politics. Some of his forgotten facts about the Hall—things which might almost be impossible to forget. Of the "underground millions" taken by Tweed and his friends, he says: "Matthew J. O'Rourke, who since his disclosures, has made a further remarkable study of this period, has informed the author that from 1868 to 1871 the total takings from 1868 to 1871, including the sale of fraudulent bonds, amounted to \$600,000,000, of the entire sum stolen, only \$78,000 was recovered."

A Woman at Kumasi.

The rising in Ashanti, one of the countless little wars characteristic of the "Pax Britannica" of Queen Victoria's reign, would have attracted the attention of the world, but for the overshadowing importance of the operations in South Africa. It was what the English would call a "nasty" mess, for the outbreak was unexpected, the Government at home could send no help as every man was needed at the Cape, and the Ashantis seemed to get out of the scrape as well as they could. They accomplished the task successfully as Englishmen in barbarous lands have a way of doing, but there were anxious moments. The Governor with his wife was shut up in Kumasi, for nearly three months of the tropical summer, and the Governor's eyes were drawn even from Robert in the Transvaal to the expected massacre on the Gold coast. 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